22 FEB 1951

OVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1949.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present herewith my Annual Report on the Health of the Overton Rural District for the year 1949.

I would like to call attention to the more important points which appear in the Report.

There are two large Polish Hospitals in the District, which are used for the hospitalisation of Polish People from all over the Country. In many cases the patients have no other domicile than the Hospitalso that deaths of the majority of patients who die in these hospitals, particularly in that hospital devoted to the care of persons suffering from tuberculosis, are registered in the District and appear in the Vital Statistical Tables together with local inhabitants.

So that this report may in some measure reflect the state of the health of the Rural District of Overton, I have carefully scrutinised all Death Returns, and I have attempted to give to you a report which excludes all these deaths, which have so weighted the statistics as to give an erroneous picture of Overton.

Appendices attached giving the results of my efforts.

Appendix "A" concerns itself with the general death returns, and Appendix "B" with deaths from Tuberculosis.

The death rate from all causes gives a rate of 19.9 per 1,000 inhabitants as compared with a rate of 16.7 for England and Wales, whereas I calculate that a rate of 10.0 per 1,000 of the indigenous population is the correct figure.

The birth rate would be lower than the figure of 19.9 per 1,000 of the population, but for the year 1949, I have no records distinguishing Polish from Local Births.

In so far as Deaths from Tuberculosis is concerned, the rate of 7.14 per 1,000 of the population represents a figure of 48 deaths from Tuberculosis during the year. Of this total 47 deaths occurred in Polish Persons, and I am prepared to accept one of these giving a total of 2 deaths in local inhabitants or a rate of .33 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with a rate for England and Wales of .45.

There are 16 deaths from Cancer, but here again 6 of these deaths occurred in Poles, who could not be considered to be local inhabitants.

There were 3 deaths in children under one year of age, a rate of 22.3 per 1,000 live births.

The year 1949 was comparatively free of infectious disease.

In conclusion Gentlemen, I would like to record my appreciation of the help and co-operation of the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee during this my first year as your Medical Officer of Health. I must thank your Clerk, Mr. C. J Buckley, for his help and advice during the year, and indeed all your officials have been cheerfully willing to assist me in every possible way. Finally the loyal co-operation of your Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, Mr. R. L. Higgins, has been of great value and is very much appreciated.

I have the honour to be
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
A. Cathcart.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	29,749
Population (Estimated December 1948)	6,720
Density	.2
Inhabited houses 1	1,312
New houses certified	10
Births	134
Birth rate per 1,000	19.9
Deaths	134
Death rate per 1,000	19.9
Deaths under the age of 1 year	3
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 related Births	22.3
Death rate from all forms of Tuberculosis	7.14

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Rateable Value	£16,878
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate .... (1948/49)	£ 118-0-1d.

The Rural District of Overton is a completely detached part of Flintshire, situated to the South-east of the County on the English bank of the Dee. Set on the borders of England and Wales the area, roughly shaped like a diamond is 11 miles from East to West and six miles from North to South. The River Dee with Denbighshire beyond bounds the District in the West, whilst to the North lies Cheshire and to the East and South Shropshire.

The whole district is fertile and well cultivated so that the principal industries are agriculture and its associated rural undertakings.

It is one of the richest milk producing areas in the whole country.

General Provisions of Health Services in the area.

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority consist of:-

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Allan Cathcart. M.B. C.H.B. D.T.M. & H. D.P.H.
(since 1st April, 1949.)

Sanitary Inspector

Mr. R. L. Higgins. M.R.S.I.

2. Laboratory Facilities

This work is carried out by the Bacteriological Department, Royal Infirmary, Chester, The Bacteriological Department of the University of Liverpool and the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Conway, the latter being used particularly for the Bacteriological Examination of Water Samples. The Examination of Milk Samples is done at the University College of North Wales, Bangor.

3. Ambulance Facilities

With the coming into effect of the National Health Service, these facilities are now under the control of the Deeside and Clwyd Hospital Board and the Flintshire County Council.

4. Hospitals

Infectious diseases. Ellesmere or Wrexham Isolation Hospitals

General. Hospitals outside the County are used for General cases:-

Royal Infirmary, Chester
Wrexham War Memorial Hospital
Wrexham Emergency Hospital
Ellesmere Cottage Hospital
Whitchurch Cottage Hospital

It may be mentioned here that two large Ministry of Pensions Hospitals for Polish Persons are situated in the area:

(a) No. 3 Polish General Hospital situate at Penley - general cases.

(b) No. 4 Polish General Hospital situate at Iscoyd for tuberculosis.

5. Maternity

Patients are admitted when necessary to a Maternity home either at Gresford or Wrexham (both homes being outside the County).

6. Clinics

During the year a Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic has been opened at Penley.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

DIPHTHERIA

Diphtheria Prophylactic Antigen is issued free to Medical Practitioners for the immunization of children in the area.

The response was excellent and a high percentage of the children are fully protected.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

TUBERCULOSIS

No action taken

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	-	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-
Measles	5	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-
Opthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-
Acute Poliomyllitis	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH

		M	F
	ALL CAUSES	101	33
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-
2.	Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	-	-
5.	Diphtheria	-	-
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	35	7
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis	6	-
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	2	-
9.	Influenza	-	-
10.	Measles	-	-
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis & polioencephalitis	-	-
12.	Acute Infective Encephalitis	-	-
13.	Cancer of Mouth and Oesophagus (m) Uterus (F)	-	2
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-
15.	Cancer of Brest	-	1
16.	Cancer of all other sites	8	4
17.	Diabetes	-	-
18.	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	5	3
19.	Heart Disease	13	9
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	4	-
21.	Bronchitis	2	1
22.	Pneumonia	1	1
23.	Other respiratory Diseases	4	1
24.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	-
26.	Appendicitis	-	-
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	5	-
28.	Nephritis	3	-
29.	Puerperal and post Abortional Sepsis	-	-
30.	Other maternal causes	-	-
31.	Premature Birth	-	-
32.	Congenital Malformation birth injury	1	-
33.	Suicide	-	1
34.	Road Traffic Accident	2	-
35.	Other Violent Causes	-	1
36.	All other causes	8	2

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

DURING THE YEAR 1949.

Disease	Under 1	1 and under 3	3 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 25	over 25	Non Civil -iam	Total
Small Pox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia) Neonatorum)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	4
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal) Fever)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

Tabulated new cases for 1949.

Age Periods	Respiratory M	Respiratory F	Non Pulmonary M	Non Pulmonary F	Total
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	-	-	-
5-10	1	-	-	-	1
10-25	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	1	-	-	-	1
35-45	-	1	-	-	1
45-55	-	-	-	-	-
55-65	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-

Comparative Table of Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in 1949.

	Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population	
	England & Wales	Overton R.D.
BIRTHS		
Live Births	16.7	19.9
Still Births	.39	.44
DEATHS		
All Causes	11.7	19.9
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.45	7.14
Influenza	0.15	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.51	0.28
NOTIFICATIONS		
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.02	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.63	0.15
Whooping Cough	2.39	0.00
Diphtheria	0.04	0.00
Erysipelas	0.19	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.95	0.73
Pneumonia	0.80	0.44
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.13	0.00
Acute Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.00
Food Poisoning	0.14	0.00
DEATHS		
All causes under 1 year of Age	32	22.3
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	3.0	0.0
NOTIFICATIONS	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births	
Puerperal Fever & Pyrexia	6.31	0.15

INFANTILE MORTALITY

DEATHS OF INFANTS under 1 year of Age.

	M.	F.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
Total	3	-	
Legitimate	2	-	22
Illegitimate	1	-	

The causes of Infant Deaths was as follows:-

1. A male child age 3 months of Polish parentage died of Bronchial Asthma.
2. A male child age 3 months, the mother being Polish, died of Broncho Pneumonia in hospital.
3. A male child age 1 day died of Neonatal cerebral haemorrhage.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. MILK SUPPLY

The District is well known for its dairy farming, and milk produced in abundance. The producers are chiefly Wholesale, and the Milk is collected by Creameries with their own transport. The general standard of milk production is very good, and the Dairy Farmers readily respond to advice in order to avail themselves of "the accredited" scheme. The number of Tuberculin Tested herds is increasing and there is one Pasteurising plant licenced in the area.

2. MILK SAMPLES

The County Police are still the authority appointed to take samples under the Food and Drug Acts, Samples from "accredited" and other Designated premises are regularly taken by the County Agricultural Advisory Officers.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCE OF THE AREA.

1. WATER. The Council as the Water Authority has completed the first section of the programme contained in the comprehensive water distribution scheme. From the Liverpool Corporation Vyrnwy Aqueduct a 4 inch diameter main has been laid westwards to the Bangor-is-y-coed Parish boundary at Hollybush. Extension schemes to Worthenbury, and Bangor-is-y-coed have been prepared and forwarded to the Welsh Board of Health for approval. A further scheme to supply Tallarn Green from the Vyrnwy Aqueduct at "Woodlands" is in course of preparation. During the year approximately 80 habitable dwellings and farms have been connected to mains water supply.

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL. No alterations has taken place in the systems at Overton and Bangor-is-y-coed. A modern disposal plant at Overton is contemplated.

3. PUBLIC CLEANSING. Refuse collection is operated weekly in parts of the Parish of Bangor-is-y-coed and fortnightly in the Parish of Overton. Schemes are contemplated for other Parishes

4. SHOPS AND OFFICES. No action has been necessary.

5. CAMPING SITES. No camping sites existing within the District.

6. SMOKE ABATEMENT. No action has been required.

7. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS. None in existence in the District.

8. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. No action has been found necessary.

9. RAG FLOCK ACT , 1911 & 1928. No action has been found necessary.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. - INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	M/C line No. (2)	No. on Register. (3)	Number of: Inspections. (4)	Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	M/C line No. (7)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	12	16	6	Nil	1
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority		Nil	-	-	-	2
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority		Nil	-	-	-	-
TOTAL....	1	12	16	6	Nil	3

2 - CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/C line No. (2)	Number of Defects: Found. (3)	Remedied. (4)	Referred to H.M. Inspct. (5)	No. of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (6)	M/C line No. (7)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	4	4	4	-	-	4
Overcrowding (S.2.)	5	-	-	-	-	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	6	-	-	-	-	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	7	-	-	-	-	7
Ineffective drainage of floors(S.6)	8	-	-	-	-	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.):						
(a) insufficient	9	-	-	-	-	9
(b) unsuitable or defective	10	-	-	-	-	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	-	-	-	-	11
Other offences against the Act.	12	-	-	-	-	12
TOTAL....		4	4	Nil	Nil	

APPENDIX "A"

OVERTON R.D.C. 1949

Cause of Death	Registrar's S.D.30		Compiled from Local Records: Locals		Compiled from Local Records: Poles		Total Deaths i.e. Locals. Poles		Poles not accepted		Residual Table	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
6	35	7	-	1	35	6	35	7	35	5	-	2
7	6	-	-	-	6	-	6	-	6	-	-	-
8	2	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	1	-	1	-
13	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	1
14	1	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	-	-
15	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
16	8	4	3	4	5	-	8	4	4	-	4	4
18	5	3	3	2	5	-	8	2	5	-	3	2
19	13	9	8	10	4	1	12	11	4	1	8	10
20	4	-	-	-	3	1	3	1	3	1	-	-
21	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
22	1	1	-	-	2	-	2	-	1	-	1	-
23	4	1	3	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	3	1
24	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
27	5	-	1	-	2	-	3	-	2	-	1	-
28	3	-	1	-	2	-	3	-	2	-	1	-
32	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
33	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
34	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
35	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
36	8	2	7	2	1	-	8	2	1	-	7	2
tals	101	33	30	24	69	9	99	33	66	8	33	25

	M	F
Total No. of Deaths from my refords	99	33
Registered locally	106	43
add inward transfers	17	8
	123	51
deduct outward transfers	24	18
otal No. of deaths	99	33

	M	F
Registrar's Total	101	33

It will be seen that my TOTAL NUMBER of Deaths is 2 less than the figure iven on S.D.30, both being males. It is assumed that 2 inward transfers ave gone astray because it will be noted that 2 males died from Road raffic accident (34) on S.D.30, whereas I can only find record of one such eath, a male, and this was an inward transfer.

N.B. The numbers in Column 1 refer to causes of death, see page 5.

APPENDIX "B"

POLISH DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Where died

Inward Transfers

No. 1	at Runwell Hospital, Runwell	)
No. 2	at The Grove, Horton Lane, Epsom	) 3
No. 3	at The Grove, Horton Lane, Epsom	)

Registered Locally

No.17	at No. 3 Polish Hospital Penley	)
No.21	at " " " "	)
No.22	at " " " "	) 6
No.25	at " " " "	)
No.31	at " " " "	)
No.47	at " " " "	)

All others

i.e. No's. 4-16	at No.4 Polish Hosp. Iscoyd	)
" 18-20	" " " "	)
" 23-24	" " " "	)
26-30	" " " "	) 38
32-46	" " " "	)

I think that it will be agreed that it would give an entirely false picture of the state of health in the OVERTON RURAL DISTRICT if the deaths in Polish Subjects were to be included in the compilation of Tables of VITAL STATISTICS, and yet I do not wish to exclude any deaths which may be properly attributed to a person domiciled in the district. And so I have carefully scrutinised all the particulars relating to persons who have died from Tuberculosis in the OVERTON R.D. in 1949, and from the information at my disposal I would be prepared to accept only one of the Polish deaths from Tuberculosis for the purposes of compiling local statistical tables - I refer to No. 22 on my list - a young female of 13 years who died from miliary tuberculosis of the lungs and tuberculosis pericarditis.

N.B. The numbers referred to are from a list extracted by me from the Registrar's Returns.